
High Maintenance Machine
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May was quite a month at High Maintenance Machine headquarters (home). It started out with a bang at Hub Comics in Somerville, where fellow Union Square artist George Pfromm II and I set up our wares and drawing gear to celebrate Free Comic Book Day. The weather was pretty crummy, but I did draw with a few kids, including one named Miles who took over my drawing desk and another who mutilated my sable brush. The middle of the month brought me another short hiatus from night classes along with a batch of lovely weather. Finally, we capped things off by watching Wendy graduate from 2 years of intensive bookbinder bench training.

There were down points, from cruel emails to my acting like a jerk in the face of adversity, but drawing this comic has taught me that if something is lousy, be it a situation or a comic, if you just wait until tomorrow, you'll get another chance. Let's hope June keeps its promise of 30 opportunities to succeed, to be dignified, to fail, to disappoint, and to draw. If not: there is always July. See you then.

I listen to the news on the radio while I draw each morning



I read the paper on my coffee breaks, and I devour the Sunday paper



Some days I feel knowledgable, informed, and connected to the world



But sometimes the absurdity of the media disheartens me



REIDSROW

MAY 1, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 2, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 3, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 4, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 5, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 6, 2008













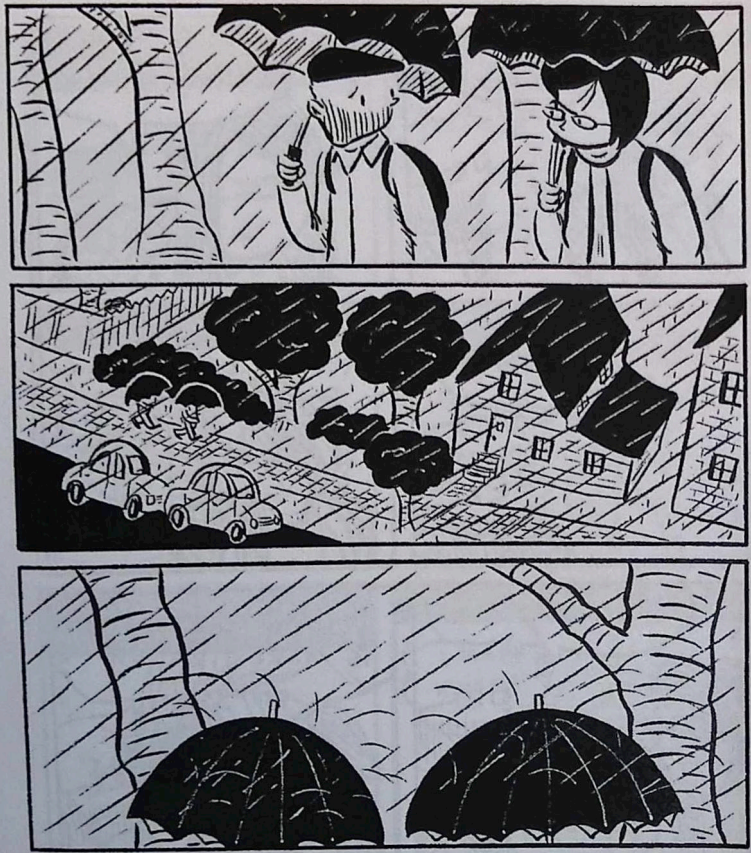
REIDSROW

MAY 7, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 8, 2008



REIDSROW

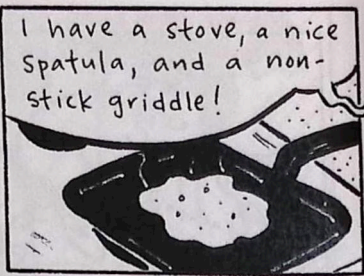
MAY 9, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 10, 2008













REIDSROW

MAY 11, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 12, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 13, 2008



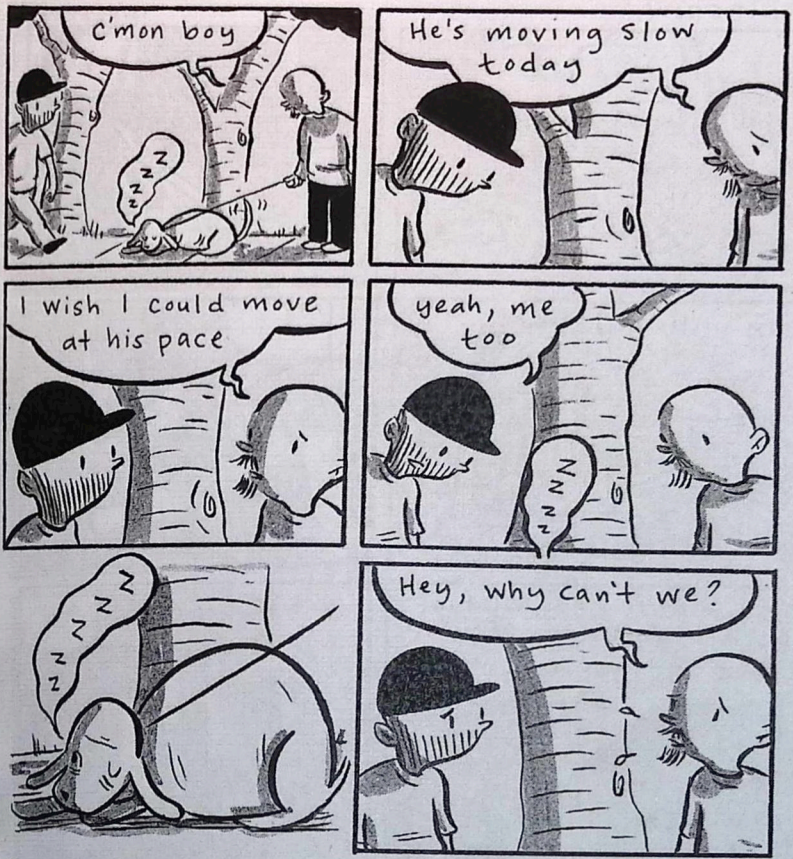
REIDS ROW

MAY 14, 2008



REIDSROW

MAY 15, 2008



REIDSROW

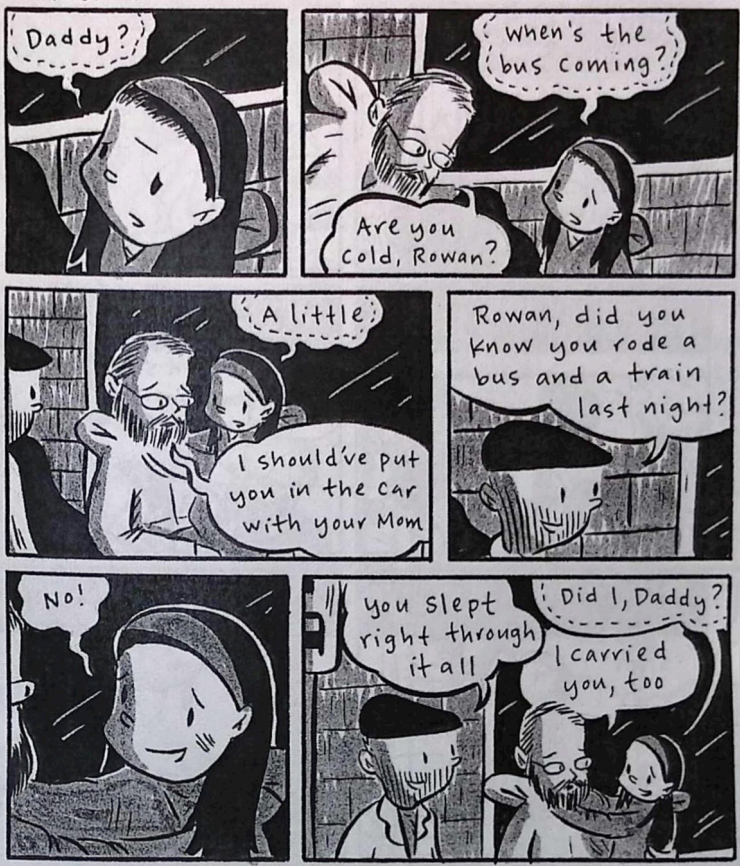
MAY 16, 2008

REIDSROW



MAY 17, 2008

REIDSROW



MAY 18, 2008

REIDSROW



MAY 19, 2008

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MAY 20, 2008

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MAY 21, 2008

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MAY 22, 2008

REIDSROW



MAY 23, 2008

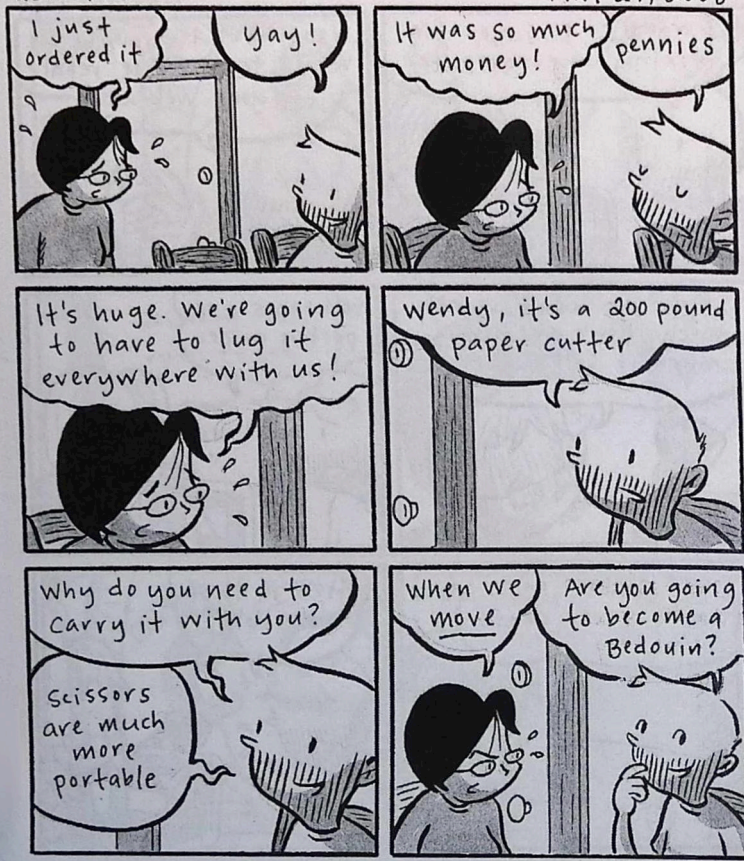
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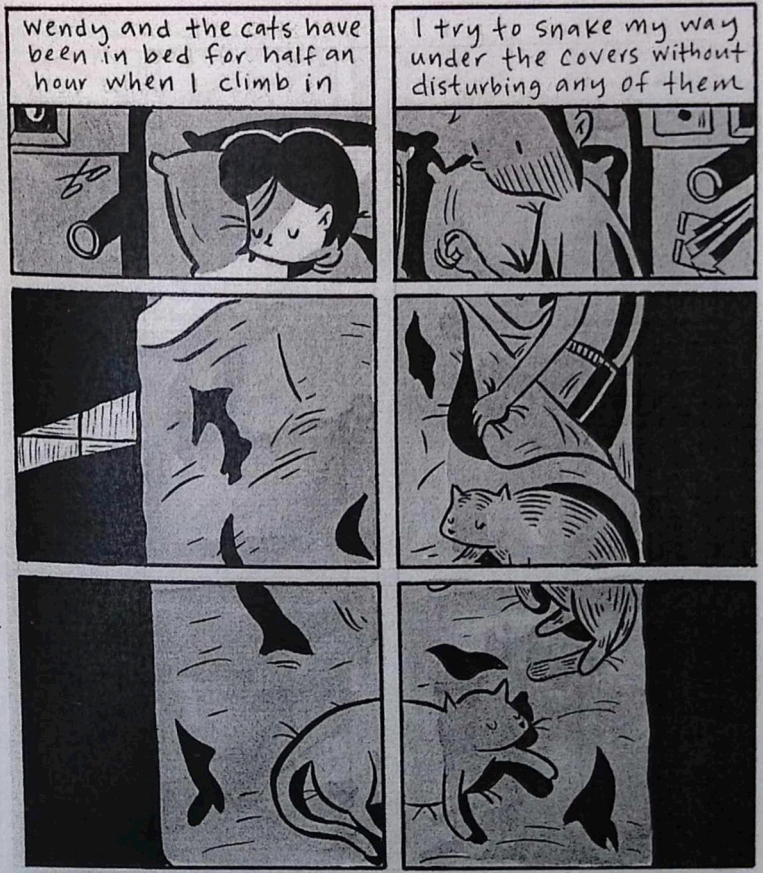


MAY 24, 2008


What a lovely day
Nothing can ruin today
BONK
Eek!
A banana! You threw a banana at me?!!
Ha ha


I want to pay you for fixing my computer
Nonsense. I thought we would trade - the repair for your webcam
The webcam isn't worth much. Let's see how much it sells for...
Webcams are pretty pricey
TYPE TYPE
Three dollars and twenty-seven cents.
How is that possible?!


I just ordered it
yay!
It was so much money!
pennies
It's huge. We're going to have to lug it everywhere with us!
Wendy, it's a 200 pound paper cutter
Why do you need to carry it with you?
Scissors are much more portable
When we move
Are you going to become a Bedouin?



REIDSROW

MAY 28, 2008


So, are we cool?
yeah
shake?
No, like gangsters
THUMP
blink blink
That kind of hurt!


I can't see anything. But I'll stand up when she goes up to take a photo
LATER
Oh!
Graduates of the bookbinding program...
This is a good view
Wendy!
steady
click

MAY 31, 2008


Ready?
yup!
We'll face the world arm in arm!
Maybe once we get outside



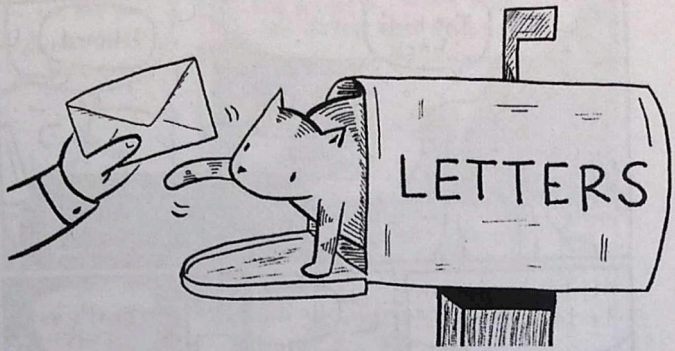
This story is forthcoming in the Elfworld v.2 anthology, 2009.


yeah, yeah. Hold on...
WIPE
WIPE
Alright. Let's do this. But kill me this time.
I will!
Right here.
ZZZZ


Come on!
Save yourself! Fight back!
What's the point?
This is no good
I need to kill a fierce dragon
Did you take those pills?
I'm not taking those stupid pills
brush brush
Merlin says those pills will get you out of this funk!


I'm not in a funk. Just kill me.
The princess won't love me unless you fight back!
you think the princess will love you for killing me?
Of course! I'm saving her from a terrible monster!
you seem like a good kid
But you've got a lot to learn about love
PAT PAT
Hey!
She will love me!


The kid's back
I heard
He try to get you to take the pills?
He did
That's so cute
END
reidsrow



Coming home from BCR last night the person I was walking beside threw up while walking. We miss you. -Shelli Paroline

That last panel [of the May 1st comic] captures my current mood concerning current events perfectly. I always seem to like the strips that use the reverse image text boxes best. Your HMM continues to reach new heights day by day. -Brian Payne

Hi, I saw/met you briefly this weekend at the comic store in Union. I bought two of your comics and really enjoy both. actually, I think I am enjoying them too much ... It's funny because had I been reading your comics prior to #20 I would have submitted a comic about

shaving and how the wife hates How I keep threatening chops... (my wife, I don't know if Wendy cares if you have chops or not). Anyhow... Really I just wanted to tell you how much I love the strip and I will be looking for more of it at the comic store... -Guido

Hey Matt- I'm really enjoying the tonal washes in your last two dailies! They remind me of those old Zen paintings of misty mountains, and a single small man in a boat.....reminding us that the world is so much bigger than we are, and that it's all illusion anyway..... -Aimee Valentine

Great comic [May 23]. That's the normal way for men to plan a party, don't discuss it, don't plan it, keep it vague and hope for the best. It usually works out fine.
I like the fingers as quotation marks thing. My girlfriends dad has started to do it A LOT, but at inappropriate times when quote marks are not called for, and sometimes just using one finger. -Joe Decie

Mr. Reidsma- Thank you for your kind words anent my recent #14 [Mimi's Doughnuts Zine]. The looseness of an unpenciled strip certainly does carry a life of its own; someday I'd like to try just ditching the rulers and penciles and wandering off into the immediate pleasures of the solo brush. Ink and paper are cheap--not sure why I don't more often! -Marek

4/13/08
P21520

At the Enchanted Kingdom, five miles north of Plattsburgh, New York : Hansel and Gretel's Candy House. This is the house Hansel and Gretel found in the woods and began to eat the candy and the old witch seized Hansel and put him in a cage to fatten him up.

Published by Lovin Candy Company, Plattsburgh, New York

Colourpicture® by COLOURPICTURE PUBLISHERS, INC., Boston 15, Mass., U.S.A.

Ektachrome by Hagar-Hart Studio



POST CARD

MATHEW REIDSMA

#10

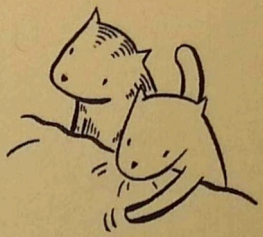
02143



AD PAGES. I'M JUST HERE TO ADVERTISE!-

DEAR MATTHEW, HOW ARE YOU & WENDY & MONTANA & ELMER? ALL IN GOOD HEALTH & SPIRITS I HOPE? I AM DOWN IN ATHENS FOR AN INDIE COMIC CON, & IT IS BY FAR THE BEST ONE I HAVE EVER BEEN TO - & ONLY $5/TABLE! WOW EE! ANYWAY I AM WEARING A LITTLE-TOO-BIG-IN-THE-WAIST-FOR-ME SKIRT & I BENT OVER TO PICK UP SOMETHING & THIS CARTOONIST THERE SAW MY TATTOO & WANTED TO KNOW WHICH BOOK OF MINE IT WAS FROM. I INDICATED THAT I OBVIOUSLY [illegible] DRAW IT DUE TO THE LACK OF RETARDEDNESS & GAVE THEM YOUR WEB

Astute readers will remember that last fall I reported on a few High Maintenance Machine readers who had gotten matching tattoos of my cat, Montana. Well, this month I got a little postcard update from one of them, a cartoonist of no small ability, she was down in Athens, GA, when she had a "tattoo incident." (Her name is redacted at her own request.)



Matthew Reidsma is a cartoonist living in Boston with his wife and two cats. Write him at: [redacted] #10, Somerville, MA, 02143, USA or send electrons to mreidsma@gmail.com

Thanks to James Welborn and the whole staff at the Hub Comics for letting me set up a table on Free Comic Book Day; George Pfromm II for sharing that table with me; everyone who came down to the show to get a sketch or buy a comic (I'm the #2 seller at The Hub right now, behind only Buffy the Vampire Slayer!); Mimi of Union Square Main Streets for proposing one very cool comic book, and Liz Prince, Maris Wicks, Joe Quinones, and George Pfromm II for signing on to help draw it; Dan Mazur, Brian Brown, and Sarah for a very nice Memorial Day brunch, despite the waitress spilling hot coffee on James Welborn's crotch; Lisa and Crow, for pizza and beer; J.P., for lunches and the abestos pullover (be safe in China, please), but most of all for friendship; Wendy, Montana, Elmer, and of course, all of my readers.

Praise for High Maintenance Machine



It takes someone who really understands how comics work to create strips like these which just so gracefully knock the wind out of you. They're amazing, beautiful things, all the more so for their economy.

--Anne Thalheimer, Fleen.com



I sat right down and read it, and my first reaction was, "Wow, this is what indie comics is all about!" Thank you, Matt Reidsma, for renewing my faith in mail-order comics communication!

-- Marek Bennett, Cartoonist, http://marekbennett.com



These comics slice a moment from a day and then break it down to its most basic and beautiful beats, like steady thumps of a heart. On good days, High Maintenance Machine delights. Oh bad days, it reminds me that I am not alone.

-- Daniel Barlow, writer, http://www.treesandhills.org



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